

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 28, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment places the objected-to claims to independent form. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-11 are now in condition for immediate allowance.

The present Amendment also adds new dependent claims 28-43. Claims 28-42 are the same as claims 12-24 and 26-27, except they are based on claim 2 as an independent claim rather than claim 1. Since the new claims depend directly or indirectly from an allowable independent claim (that is, claim 2), it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are also in condition for immediate allowance. New claim 43 depends from claim 1, and is supported by the passage at page 27 of the present application, line 5, to page 28, line 23.

In addition, the present Amendment revises claim 1 to further distinguish the cited references. Claim 1 previously recited that a wireless LAN mobile station of a mobile object “has unique identifying information, and accepts or rejects an incoming wireless signal depending on whether identification information and the incoming wireless signal matches the unique identifying information.” The present Amendment modifies claim 1 to emphasize that the identifying information is, indeed, unique, and forms of the basis for accepting or rejecting incoming wireless signals. The present Amendment does this by revising claim 1 to provide that the wireless LAN mobile station previously recited in claim 1 is a first mobile station having unique first identifying information, and that the

system of claim 1 also comprises a second mobile station with its own unique second identifying information.

The fact that each of the wireless LAN mobile stations has its own unique identifying information, and can accept or rejects incoming messages depending on whether identification information in the incoming messages matches the unique identifying information, permits the Applicant's parking lot management system to interact individually with the parking lot's customers. Information that would be helpful to a particular customer can be sent to that customer, without burdening other customers with unnecessary information.

For example, a notice can be sent to a particular customer that some predetermined time has elapsed since that customer parked. This type of notice is specific to the particular customer. As another example, if two customers are looking for vacant parking spaces, Applicant's system can identify one vacant space for one of the customers and a different vacant space for the other customer. Individually tailored information of this type is particularly useful to customers since it avoids situations in which several customers are drawn toward the same empty space.

Section 2 of the Office Action rejects claim 1 (along with three dependent claims) for obviousness based on a published application to Slemmer et al (which will hereafter be called simply "Slemmer") in view of US patent 6,862,443 to Witte. For the reasons discussed below, though, it is respectfully submitted that the invention now defined by claim 1 is patentable over these references.

Claim 1 now provides that wireless LAN first and second mobile stations have unique first and second identifying information, respectively. The wireless LAN first

mobile station “accepts or rejects an incoming wireless signal depending on whether identification information in the incoming wireless signal matches the unique first identifying information,” and the wireless LAN second mobile station similarly “accepts or rejects an incoming wireless signal depending on whether identification information in the incoming wireless signal matches the unique second identifying information.” In the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4, the Office Action acknowledges that “Slemmer does not specifically disclose the wireless mobile LAN station having unique identifying information.” The Office Action takes a position, however, that Witte discloses using unique identification for wireless communication devices so that a communication link can be established only when the identification matches. The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to modify Slemmer’s arrangement according to the teachings of Witte so as to achieve the invention defined by claim 1. The alleged motivation for this modification that is advanced in the Office Action is to increase security and to allow only authorized signals to get through and therefore reduce noise the system receives.

It is respectfully submitted that this alleged motivation fails. An ordinarily skilled person would have had no reason to think that Slemmer’s parking system suffers from any type of insecurity that might be improved by Witte. Nor would an ordinarily skilled person have had a reason to think that unauthorized communications might be a problem in Slemmer’s parking system. Similarly, an ordinarily skilled person would have had no reason to think that Slemmer’s system is vulnerable to noise. And even if it were vulnerable to noise, it seems likely that an ordinarily skilled person would be inclined to

improve the signal-to-noise ratio by the simple expedient of increasing the signal strength.

Even apart from these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that Witte would not have led an ordinarily skilled person to modify Slemmer in accordance with claim 1. Witte provides a general disclosure of a communication system in which a fob unit 7 can communicate with a communication unit 1 in a vehicle directly using Bluetooth or indirectly via a cellular telephone network. A passage in the Witte reference that is noted in the Office Action (at column 5, lines 7-25) advises that Witte's fob unit 7 regularly sends out an identification signal and that a transceiver in the vehicle may also send out a corresponding identification signal that must be accepted by the fob unit 7 before a communication link is established. However, it is respectfully submitted that Witte fails to explicitly teach a comparison between these two identification signals, or what to do if they match.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that an ordinarily skilled person would conclude that Witte's key fob unit 7 is intended for use with a particular vehicle. Key fob units 7 for use with different vehicles would send out different identification signals. In contrast, Slemmer's arrangement works in a broadcast mode. It is respectfully submitted that there is nothing in Witte's use of a plurality of key fobs 7 with different identification signals to communicate with different vehicles that would have led an ordinarily skilled person to switch from Slemmer's broadcast mode to a mode in which a single source can address communications to different mobile objects on the basis of unique identifying information.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention now defined by claim 1 is patentable over the references. Since claims 12-24, 26, 27, and 43 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 1 and recited additional limitations to further define the invention, they are patentable along with claim 1 and need not be further discussed.

It is nevertheless noted that new claim 43 recited that the "first identifying information" and the "second identifying information" are stored in the server that is recited in claim 1. In contrast, an ordinarily skilled person would likely assume that one of Witte's key fobs 7 does not store identifying information for different vehicles.

It is noted that this application has been amended to include 42 claims, 2 of them independent. Since the fee for 24 claims, 2 of them independent has already been paid, an additional claim fee of \$900 is being submitted concurrently.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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